

SUGAR RUSSES BADLY BEATEN IN FIGHT WITH SPRECKELS. PRICES ARE SLASHED AGAIN

War Dates Back to Rulings of U. S. Equalization Board Which Were Objected To.

BATTLE A YEAR OLD.

Big Independent Refiners Refused to Tie Themselves Up With High Price Contracts.

During the last six months the wholesale price of refined sugar has dropped from around 25 cents a pound to less than 8 cents. The value of the Cuban sugar crop alone has depreciated approximately \$80,000,000. Investigation of the cause back of this price collapse develops the fact that while it had its inception in economic conditions it has been amazingly accelerated by one of the bitterest business wars in the history of the sugar industry, with many millions involved.

On one side of this business battle is the American Sugar Refining Company, commonly known as the Sugar Trust. On the other is the Spreckels family, headed by C. A. Spreckels, operating through the Federal Sugar Refining Company, which they own.

Since its organization in 1887 and up until six months ago the American Sugar Refining Company was the all powerful factor in the sugar industry. Since the present price war started it admittedly has been forced to take losses amounting to many millions of dollars, and its common stock is now selling in the market at the lowest price recorded in more than twenty years. It is said in the sugar trade that the company's prestige has been seriously shaken.

The present price war may be said to have originated more than a year ago, when the sugar industry was under the control of the Sugar Equalization Board of the United States Government. Interested parties are extremely reticent as to the disputes which arose at that time and which engendered so much bitterness. But it is admitted that much bitterness was engendered. It is further said that the board was under the dominance of the American Sugar Refining Company, and that the unfair request of the board was to raise the price of sugar to 25 cents a pound.

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When Spreckels began to "get even" with trust. Subsequent developments in the sugar market gave him his desired opportunity. During the latter part of last year the American Sugar Refining Company, along with many other refiners, became huge buyers of raw sugar. The demand for sugar in this country appeared insatiable. A serious and prolonged shortage was freely predicted. The market appeared to have no top. When a price of 25 cents per pound was reached, Cuban sugar growers were so excited by the apparent prospects of a serious shortage that they decided to hold the balance of their crop, amounting to 40,000 tons, until the price went to 30 cents. Predictions were made that raw sugar would go as high as 50 cents a pound.

But while the American Sugar Refining Company admittedly believed that the sugar shortage would continue for many months, Spreckels held other views. He steadily refused to make large commitments in the sugar market. While the Sugar Trust was contracting for huge supplies in many instances deliverable months ahead, Spreckels was satisfied to "roll" sugar, that is, to refine it after purchase, keeping a neat profit for himself.

Six months ago uncontrollable economic forces made themselves felt, and sugar prices unexpectedly began to crash. By the middle of June the price of the raw product had dropped from around 25 cents to below 20 cents. It tumbled to below 18 cents by the middle of July, and by September had dropped to below 11 cents, and Cuban sugar, including cost, insurance and freight, is now quoted at 8 cents a pound.

THE CALIFORNIAN IN FINE CONDITION FOR A FIGHT. When prices began to tumble the few that was not tied up with big contracts purchased at high prices. And with his powerful competitor tied up with a big inventory and unable to take advantage of a falling market, Spreckels found himself in a position to square accounts for the alleged injustices of a year ago. His chief concern was to get back to 10 cents a pound. On Nov. 4 this was matched by the American Sugar Refining Company, which dropped its price to 10 cents. After his figure was again raised he dropped his price on Nov. 10 to 10 cents. On Nov. 18, when the American Company dropped its price to 10 cents, the Spreckels Company again lowered its figure to 10 cents. When this action was taken

TURN FOR BETTER IN BUSINESS DUE AFTER NEW YEAR

(Continued From First Page.)

farmers and manufacturers find it necessary to take lower prices for their wares, the cost of goods sold in the retail stores is not materially reduced. The farmer insists that he can't take lower prices because his cost of living has not declined. RETAILER NOT WHOLLY TO BLAME, IT IS SAID.

But in defense of the retailer who bought his goods at high prices and feels that he must get rid of them somewhere near original cost, the opinion is volunteered again and again that while the retailer may generously take some losses on the goods which he has on his shelves he cannot afford to take much of a chance when rent and labor and fuel and other items that enter into his overhead show little sign of coming down.

If the retailer is blocking the readjustment, it is said in his behalf that the reasons are to be found in the cost of clerical labor and light and heat and street car fares and delivery wagons and kindred items.

Such institutions as the Federal Reserve Board express themselves as ever so much more satisfied with the situation to-day than a year ago. Twelve months ago, members of the board say, they didn't know when the drop would come or how hard the fall would be. Now the bottom has been reached and it is much easier to deal with an upward curve than a downward glide.

Not a word has come from the Federal Reserve Board to justify the rumor, but business men hereabouts are beginning to feel confident that the board will reduce the rediscount rate about the first of the year and that money will then be more plentiful.

THIS POLICEMAN PRAISED BY COURT

Men He Caught After Hold-Up Are Held in \$25,000 Bail Each.

Magistrate Schwab in Yorkville Court to-day praised Patrolman Rinschler for making an arrest, and said he hoped the prisoners would never see freedom again. He held Andrew Sheridan, twenty, of No. 409 East 57th Street, who was released from Elmira three days ago, and John O'Neil, who escaped from there three weeks ago, in \$25,000 bail.

They are accused of holding up Benjamin Feigel, a clothier of No. 409 East 73d Street, last night, tying his hands and stealing trunks of clothing and \$11 in cash. A black-jack and revolver bought in Newark yesterday were left behind.

Felix Schonberger, 22, who says his "home" is the Lenox Baths, was arraigned in Jefferson Market Court to-day, charged with robbery.

On Dec. 11th four men, one of them alleged to have been Schonberger, held up a card game in the office of Melvin Feinberg, No. 605 Broadway, and got \$300 at the point of a gun. The police say Feinberg identified him.

SEYMOUR'S FUNERAL SUNDAY

Melville E. Stone Pays High Tribute to Late Writer.

The funeral of the late Horatio W. Seymour, an editorial writer on The World, who died yesterday, will take place to-morrow from the family home, No. 120 West End Avenue, but the details have not been arranged. Among the tributes paid to his memory is this from Melville E. Stone, General Manager of the Associated Press:

"We were devoted friends for many years and I am grieved to learn of his death. We were associated in Chicago years ago, and it was due in part to me that he came to New York. I regarded him as one of the great editorial writers of the country. He was a man of sincere convictions and a remarkable capacity for expressing them on paper. He held a high place in the esteem of everybody who followed his work."

Spreckels promptly reduced his quotation to 8 cents. When, on Nov. 18, the Sugar Trust reduced its quotation to 9 cents, Spreckels on the following morning reduced his quotation to 10 cents. His chief concern was to get back to 10 cents. His figure was matched by the American Company, which promptly lowered its quotation to 10 cents.

TRUST MUST STILL CONTINUE PAYING FOR 20-CENT SUGAR. Since then the price war has waged merrily on to the huge material benefit of the consumer. Yesterday the Spreckels interests reduced their wholesale price to 150 cents and predicted still lower prices.

It is claimed for them that current transactions render a highly satisfactory profit, inasmuch as they are in a position to be liberal purchasers of the raw product at present low prices. On the other hand, the American Sugar Refining Company is still in the position of being forced to accept sugar contracted for at 20 cents per pound.

GREEKS IN RIOT OVER THE RETURN OF CONSTANTINE

Mob in Constantinople Attempts to Lynch Commander of Royalist Forces.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 18 (Associated Press).—The Greeks of Constantinople manifested their strong feeling against Constantine in a clamorous demonstration, which culminated in street fighting. Those friendly to Constantine were so roughly handled that the allied military police were compelled to intervene.

Crowds paraded the streets singing the Venizelist anthem, acclaiming the allied officers and shouting derisive epithets at Greek sailors, whom they called "traitors."

A crowd attempted to break into the headquarters of the Greek military mission for the declared purpose of lynching Col. Cousis, chief of the mission. The crowd denounced Col. Cousis as a German spy.

The crowd later proceeded to the offices of the Royalist newspaper Patria, wrecked the building and destroyed the presses. The Venizelist Gen. Youanous, commander of the Smyrna Army, was carried through the streets by a crowd which acclaimed the Allies and former Premier Venizelos.

ATHENS, Dec. 18 (Associated Press).—The cabinet has received a wireless message from the cruiser on which Constantine is returning to Athens, saying that rough seas had been encountered and that all members of the royal family, including Constantine, were seasick.

The vessel has slackened speed. Constantine sent a personal message saying he was anxious to land. Greek officers in Thrace and Constantinople, unless they return to the colors, will be declared deserters, it was announced to-day.

FAVORS REVOKING SCHOOL CONTRACT

Board of Estimate Would Take Heating Job Away From Hettrick Associates.

At the outset of its contract bearing yesterday the Board of Estimate approved and ordered transmitted to the Board of Education the recommendation of Corporation Counsel O'Brien that ventilating and heating contracts made with Gillis & Geobeghan for Public Schools Nos. 29 and 29 in Brooklyn and No. 11 in Richmond be revoked. The contracts aggregate \$33,280.

The board was able to determine as the result of information which was brought out by the Lockwood committee that the firm had been a member of the John T. Hettrick "code of practice." In his letter relating to school No. 29 the Corporation Counsel stated that although Charles A. Geobeghan, who examined before the Commissioner of Accounts had made an affidavit that the firm had not agreed to pay any one any money received under the contract, other investigations had shown that the firm had agreed to pay money to Hettrick.

Mr. O'Brien charged collusion with the contractor, the schools and stated that if the Board of Education immediately relet the contract he believed that the change could be made with only brief delay in the erection of the buildings.

CHILD HAS RIGHT TO PLAY IN STREET

Court Decides Boy Had No Reason to Suppose Motorman Would Run Him Down.

The right of a child to play in the streets and to be safe there is upheld by a decision handed down yesterday by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Frank Bisognio, nine years old, was run down and injured by a car of the New York City Railway Company. Through a guardian the boy sued for \$30,000 damages. The case was dismissed in the lower court on the ground that the child himself was negligent in being on the car tracks.

The Appellate Division, reversing the judgment, said the child "might well suppose that no motorman would run him down on a clear day and with no obstructing vehicles without warning."

FELL TEN STORIES TO DEATH.

Retired Banker Was Trying to Take Picture of City Hall Tower.

In his eagerness to take a photograph of City Hall Tower flanked at night, Edward V. Gambler, a retired banker, whose hobby was photography, fell from the tenth floor of the building, No. 258 Broadway, last night and was instantly killed. The accident happened shortly after 4 o'clock.

Mr. Gambler, an associate, had been visiting his office, Room 1002, on Sun days and evenings to obtain snapshots of the tower.

Mr. Gambler lived at No. 74 Boulevard, Summit, N. J., and was sixty years old and suffered from attacks of vertigo.

TUMULTUOUS PRACTICE LAW.

Refuses Wilson Offer of Justice of Customs Appeals Court.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Joseph P. Tumulty, Secretary to President Wilson, made the formal announcement to-day that after March 1, he will resign from Washington and resume general practice of law.

MY DEAR: Here Are Some Interesting Boudoir Accessories Which You Might Like to Give or Receive for Christmas.

Are You Indulging in This Winter's Fad of Wearing a Flannelette Slumber Robe? Or Have You One of the New Silk Bed Covers?

My Dear:

When the season approaches Christmas there are few, if any, who can resist the spirit of gift-giving. In spite of the common-sense reasoning that up to this time has kept before us the seemingly valuable efforts that we year after year, put forward for this one day.

There is no denying the fact, however, that Christmas brings much happiness, and if we make our gifts useful ones the enjoyment will linger far longer than a day or two.

Now, every woman, whether she goes to business or spends her hours in luxurious leisure, likes dainty things about her whenever she can have them. Therefore, boudoir accessories are sure to be acceptable gifts. Garbed in a silk or room gown, her tired feet clad in soft, quilted slippers, her head dropped in dainty cushions and a pretty bedecked lamp at her disposal, I was sure any woman will gain more enjoyment from her latest novel.

I could tell of no prettier room gown than one I was privileged to view recently whose type was suitable for the mother as well as for the daughter. It was of early velvet, lined with rose-colored Georgette, made in kimono fashion to open up the front. Here the lining revealed itself discreetly, as it did also on the wide sleeves which were tucked back a little to suggest a narrow waist. There was no girlish, but on each side of the back and front, a moire ribbon was pulled through eyelets and brought to the sides to tie in long loops and ends, thus confining a slight fullness. The neck was finished plain. This gown could be constructed with cut lining, substituting rose satin ribbon for narrow facings on all the edges, with the exception of the lower one, which could be finished with a trim. A tiny cord and tassels could tie at the sides.

Have you seen the newest bed-covers? We used to consider nothing simpler than elegant lace ones, laid over a colored satin foundation; but now come the silk ones, all ruffled and puffed and corded, bedecked with lace, pinked, corded and padded roses. Really, you know, they are delectable affairs that arouse the cravings of any feminine heart. I am afraid there is not much time before Christmas for any one to attempt to make such a spread, but an indulgent mother could give the materials, and pledge her time afterward. These spreads are made with the width of the material passing up the centre, which makes the pleating to occur on either side and at the bottom. Gold lace or ribbon is applied over the seams, with the bowknots and flowers placed either at the centre or at the corners or both. Pussy willow or soft taffeta in rose or dull blue, gray or ecru, for such an affair adds tellingly to one's boudoir color scheme.

An attractive pair of bath slippers that is easy to make is formed from the lamb's wool socks which any department store sells and covered with satin. Then two straps of satin attached on one end and secured near the other back toward the heel. Their crossing is marked by a silk flower, and the toes are slipped underneath.

Would not a pale blue or pink flannelette nightie appeal to some of you? They are made in the most attractive fashion. Some with lace at neck and sleeves and others with hand embroidery. If this does not strike your fancy, perhaps you would like the slumber robes, made in very much the same fashion with higher neck and longer sleeves, that are supposed to be slipped on over one's nightgown or pajamas on these cold winter nights.

They are made kimono fashion.

opened in front, with ribbon bindings and ribbon bow at the neck. A dainty little apron for the home girl to don at 5 o'clock when she pours her own tea and prepares her own sandwiches makes a very acceptable gift. One that I think is especially attractive and ever so simple to make is composed of wide lace bands in an effective apron pattern which surrounds the waist line and to which a square of chiffon or finest batiste is gathered across the front. This apron is edged with narrow lace and may be decorated in the corners with applied bowknots of colored ribbon or rosebuds. Shoulder straps of double-faced satin ribbon are attached to the lace banding with rosebuds or bows marking their starting places.

The thin girls who have written me asking how to cover their arms in evening dress will like to know about the new armlets which have just appeared. They are made of ostrich in all the evening shades and are attached to the lace banding with a ribbon band which clasp about one's arm. The soft fringe of these ostrich fringes is most flattering to the arm. Another novelty was made all of ribbon in the Lady Fair type that shows a different color on each side. The band was about an inch wide and decorated with ribbon flowers, while from its edge dropped a fringe made of a very narrow width of the same ribbon.

MILDRED LODENWICK.

Cuticura Soothes Rashes Of Infancy And Childhood

When little ones are sleepless, fretful, and cross because of distressing irritations mothers should know that Cuticura will quickly soothe and in most cases heal. Rub the affected part with Cuticura Soap and hot water. Dry and gently apply Cuticura Ointment.

Sample Book Free by Mail. Address: "Cuticura Laboratories, Dept. 10, Malden, Mass." Send for free sample book. Cuticura Soap and Ointment sent by mail. Cuticura Soap shaves without razor.

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